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IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant: Collins, *et al* Examiner:
Serial No.: 09/836,779 Art Unit: 1744
Filing Date: April 17, 2001
Title: HANDLE CONFIGURATION FOR BRUSH PRODUCTION BY FUSION

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, DC 20231

Sir:

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01 FC:102
02 FC:103

7.00 CH 84.00 DP
191.00 DP

Preliminary Amendment

RECEIVED
DEC 28 2001
TC 1700

Please add the following new claims:

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Rule 17. A bristle carrier for a brush, comprising:
126. a bristle receiving portion;
1 a at least one pre-molded hole disposed in the bristle receiving portion and comprising a bottom and at least one side-wall; and
A2 a projection disposed in the bottom of the pre-molded hole,
wherein the hole is configured to receive an end of a bristle tuft, wherein the end comprises a fuse-ball having a diameter greater than a diameter of the tuft.

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18. The bristle carrier of claim 17, wherein a side surface of the protrusion is perpendicular to the bottom of the hole, parallel to the at least one side-wall of the hole, or both.

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19. The bristle carrier of claim 17, wherein an upper surface of the protrusion exhibits a three-dimensional contour.

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20. The bristle carrier of claim 17, wherein a plurality of projections are disposed in the bottom of the pre-molded hole.